

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 173160
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-----067852 251633Z /46

P 251515Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, VE

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS IN VENEZUELA: CARACAS METRO

REF: CARACAS A-99 7/1/77

1. REFAIR ARRIVED USDOC JULY 20. IT IS INTERESTING

ASSESSMENT RECENT EMBASSY EXPERIENCE WITH MAJOR PROJECTS AND
IS RECEIVING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

2. ONE ITEM OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS STATEMENT THAT: "WITH
THE 'BILLION DOLLAR BIG FOUR', I.E. THE RAILROAD, GURI DAM,
CARACAS METRO, AND THE PEOPLE MOVER PROJECTS NOW PRETTY
MUCH PAST THE POINT WHERE EMBASSY USG INTERVENTION COULD
PAY OFF, THE NEXT MAJOR OPPORTUNITY COMING UP IN
VENEZUELA IS THE CORPOZULIA STEEL AND COAL PROJECT."

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RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH BUSINESS EXECUTIVES CONCERNED

INDICATE CARACAS METRO PROJECT IS VERY MUCH ALIVE, WITH
CRITICAL DECISION STILL PENDING. WE UNDERSTAND PRES.
PEREZ DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF ONE
CONSORTIUM BIDDER DURING HIS RECENT U.S. VISIT. IT IS,
THEREFORE, BELIEVED METRO PROVIDES SUBSTANTIAL OPPORTUNITY

FOR IMAGINATIVE USG/INDUSTRY INITIATIVES WHICH COULD BE

CRITICAL IN GOV DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. BOTH AMERICAN
CONSORTIUM LEADERS INFORM US THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR VAKY JULY 21, IN CARACAS, TO
REQUEST CONTINUING USG SUPPORT.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON MEETING AND ANY IMMEDIATE
STEPS EMBASSY PLANS TAKE TO ASSIST BIDDERS.

4. WHILE INITIATIVES PROPOSED FOR CORPOZULIA PROJECTS
BEING DISCUSSED SEPTEL, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S
VIEWS ON HOW SUCH ACTIVITIES MIGHT AFFECT, OR POSSIBLY
MESH WITH, OUR EFFORTS RE CARACAS METRO. TIMING WOULD
SEEM PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT HERE, THEREFORE MAKING IT
URGENT TO HAVE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT AS TO POSSIBLE RISK
THAT MAJOR UNDERTAKING TO EXPRESS USG INTEREST IN
CORPOZULIA BEFORE FINAL DECISION ON METRO MIGHT TEMPT GOV
TO SUBSTITUTE ENCOURAGEMENT RE POSSIBLE FUTURE
CORPOZULIA BUSINESS FOR CONTRACT AWARDS ON METRO,
THEREBY AT LEAST APPEARING TO DO SOMETHING FOR USG AS
WELL AS FOR OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS PRESSING FOR
VENEZUELAN MAJOR PROJECTS BUSINESS. VANCE

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Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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